

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 19, 2005, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment claim 22 is cancelled and no claims are added so that claims 1 and 3-21 are now pending.

In the previous amendment, a specification change was requested at page 31 of the patent application. Although the amendment to the specification was not commented upon, the amendment was clearly in error as to the portion of the patent application to which it applied. In fact, the amendment should have been applied to page 32 beginning with line 1, not page 31. In addition, errors appeared within the amendment submitted.

In this Amendment, a correct form of the specification amendment desired, citing the correct page and line number, is supplied. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the previous, incorrect specification amendment and substitution of the specification amendment submitted here. A correct specification amendment was supplied previously with regard to the paragraph beginning at page 15 in line 23, is not further amended, and should not be withdrawn.

In the Office Action mailed October 19, 2005, the Examiner stated that claims 6 and 22 were objected to, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In this Amendment, claim 1 is amended by including the limitation of claim 22 so that the resulting claim 1 is an allowable claim. In addition, claim 6 is rewritten in independent form, maintaining its original number. Finally, claim 21 is amended to include the limitation of claim 22 and that amendment, based upon the concession with regard to examined claim 22, places claim 21 in form for allowance. The foregoing amendments should result not only in the allowance of independent claims 1, 6, and 21, but also the allowance of the examined claims depending from claim 1, namely claims 3, 4, 7, 11, 13-17, 19, and 20.

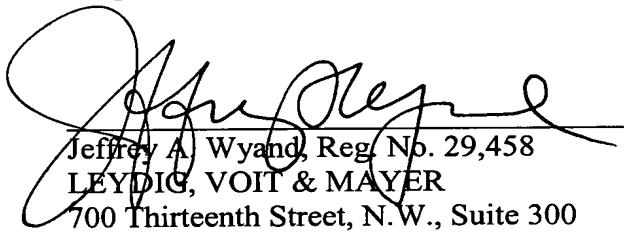
Applicants note that the examiner rejected claim 20 as indefinite, presumably because the claim included a negative limitation. Applicants believe that negative limitations do not inherently make claims indefinite. See MPEP2173.05(i). However, in order to advance the prosecution of this patent application, claim 20 has been amended to eliminate the negative limitation. Amended claim 20, which depends from allowable claim 1, should be allowed.

This patent application was the subject of a species election requirement. Claim 1 remains generic as to dependent claims 3-5 and 7-20. The claims presently withdrawn from consideration are claims 5, 8-10, 12, and 18. Upon allowance of amended claim 1, these

withdrawn claims should be rejoined to the prosecution pursuant to 37 CFR 1.141 since the structures described in the withdrawn claims are all compatible with the structure defined by amended claim 1.

Prompt and favorable action are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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